

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8643

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USDOCOSOUTH

SHAPEUSNR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, PINT

SUBJECT: REPUBLICAN PARTY LEADER'S VIEWS ON ITALIAN
POLITICAL SCENE

1. SUMMARY: REPUBLICAN PARTY LEADER FORESEES ONLY REALISTIC
SOLUTION AS DC-LED MINORITY GOVERNMENT WITH PROGRAM AGREED TO
BY PCI (AND SUPPORTED BY PCI THROUGH ABSTENTIONS). HE HAS NO
HOPE THAT PSI CAN BE PERSUADED TO COOPERATE WITH DC IN OPPO-
SITION TO PCI. END SUMMARY.

2. A LEADER OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY
KNOWN TO MANY IN THE DEPARTMENT AND WHOSE VIEWS ON HOW THE
WORLD SHOULD BE ORGANIZED ARE IN GENERAL VERY CLOSE TO OURS,
GAVE DCM AND POLCOUNS HIS VIEWS ON THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE.

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3. HE CHARACTERIZED THE ELECTIONS AS A VICTORY FOR THE COMMUNISTS IN THE SENSE THAT GIVEN THE ELECTORAL RESULTS AND THE CRISIS WITHIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY (WHICH CANNOT BE QUICKLY HEALED) NOTHING CAN BE DONE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE COMMUNISTS. THEY WILL THEREFORE HAVE A VETO ON GOVERNMENTAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT ELECTION. HE CHARACTERIZED THIS RESULT AS THE FRUIT OF BAD POLITICS AND BAD PERFORMANCE ON THE PART OF ALL OF THE CENTER-LEFT PARTIES OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS OR SO. THE HISTORY OF THOSE MISTAKES CANNOT BE QUICKLY ERASED AND, UNTIL THEY ARE, THE COMMUNISTS CANNOT BE IGNORED.

4. HE SEES THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN A CRISIS THAT WILL NOT BE QUICKLY RESOLVED. IF THE PSI IS PRESSED TO MOVE RIGHT AND JOIN THE DC AGAIN, HE BELIEVES THAT THE REACTION WILL BE ONE OF PUSHING IT TO THE LEFT OF THE PCI. GIVEN THE LACK OF AGREEMENT ON POLICY AND THE LACK OF REAL LEADERSHIP IN THE PSI, HE BELIEVES THAT THE BEST THING FOR THE PSI IS THAT IT BE LEFT ALONE FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF TIME.

5. THIS MEANS IN EFFECT THAT THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION, LOOKING AT THE FACTS COLDLY AND OBJECTIVELY, IS A MINORITY GOVERNMENT LED BY THE DC WHICH DOES NOT FORMALLY INCLUDE THE COMMUNISTS BUT WHICH WILL HAVE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM. SUCH AN AGREEMENT, WHETHER CALLED THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD OR SOMETHING ELSE, WILL GIVE THE COMMUNISTS A VETO. IT WILL ALSO ADMIT THEM FORMALLY TO THE GOVERNING PROCESS FOR THE FIRST TIME. IN RESPONSE TO OUR PROTESTATIONS THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE, HE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT BUT SAID THAT IT HAS BEEN MADE INEVITABLE BY THE ELECTORAL RESULTS AND THE CONDITION OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. THE ONLY REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE - TO HAVE THE PCI IN THE GOVERNMENT - WOULD BE WORSE.

6. THE REPUBLICAN LEADER DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY EFFORT WILL BE MADE IMMEDIATELY TO FORM A TEMPORARY CARETAKER MINORITY GOVERNMENT TO GET PAST THE SUMMER SEASON. HE SAID THAT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS BETWEEN THE DC AND THE PCI HAS ALREADY BEGUN OVER PARLIAMENTARY POSITIONS, I.E., PRESIDENCY OF TWO CHAMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS. ONCE THAT PROBLEM IS

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RESOLVED, THOSE TWO PARTIES WILL MOVE ON TO AN EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT ON A LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM. HE WOULD NOT PREDICT HOW LONG SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT TAKE BUT OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT EXPECT A QUICK RESOLUTION. VOLPE

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